

Israel Reported Able to Build Own Jets

By MILT FREUDENHEIM
Miami Herald-Chicago Daily News Wire

PARIS — Israel has the technical capability to build its own Phantom jet fighters if the United States decided to stop supplying Israel with airplanes and parts, Israeli aviation industry sources said here.

They replied with carefully hedged answers to questions after Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Dayan in Jerusalem called attention to the possibility of an approaching slowdown in U.S. arms supplies.

Other sources said Washington has taken no action yet to renew or extend weapons contracts with Israel, although existing contracts will be completed in July.

"I believe we may soon find it very difficult to receive more military supplies from the United States," Dayan said. "The Americans now wish to appear before the Arab world as a nation that does not channel large quantities of weapons to Israel."

QUESTIONED at the Paris Air Show, the Israeli aviation industry sources pointed out that it is far more economical for Israel to buy Phantoms and other sophisticated weapons from the United States than to set up assembly lines for the relatively small numbers required by the Israeli Air Force.

Costs per plane are far lower for the United States in view of its own large-scale needs and its position as supplier to a number of other countries.

But if cost were not a factor, Israel's factories could produce the American warplane just as they kept the French Mirage fighters in the air long after the 1957 cutoff by French President Charles de Gaulle.

ISRAEL is represented for the first time at this year's

Paris Air Show, with its 10-passenger Commadore 1123 jet and the Arava, a short-takeoff-and-landing propeller plane primarily for carrying freight.

Both are made by Israel Aircraft Industries, which also makes spare parts "to keep the Israeli Air Force flying," S. N. Ariav, general manager of aircraft manufacturing, said.

The company also makes the Gabriel naval missile and has both military and civilian

aviation ground-support manufacturing contracts, including one for bomb-handling equipment.

ON THE civilian side, it subcontracts to make parts for some European planes.

"We have all the technology on the latest state of the art," Ariav said. "Our main-

tenance division (Bedek Aviation) overhauls engines on everything from Piper Cubs to Boeing 707 transports."

He said his "boys" frequently can turn out spare parts cheaper than the original item. They are also good at tooling up in a hurry on new designs.

"You give us a technical drawing, and we can make the part or we can make the design from sketches and photographs," Ariav said.

Middle East

Cairo's A-power boosted

By CHAPMAN PINCHER

London Express Service

LONDON—The Russians are building special facilities in Egypt for the storage and servicing of nuclear weapons, according to intelligence reports.

These facilities, located in Red air force bases near Cairo from which all Egyptians are excluded, are not intended for use against Israel. They are part of the permanent build-up of Russian air power in Egypt to counter the U.S. Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean and weaken the southern flank of NATO.

AIRCRAFT

This development is to be discussed by the NATO nuclear planning group which meets in Germany next week.

The nuclear weapons, which would be operated by Russian aircraft from Egypt, would not normally be stored there because they can be flown in from Soviet bases on the Black Sea within a few hours.

But complex facilities where the temperature and humidity can be controlled are essential for even the temporary storage of nuclear weapons on airfields. Special handling arrangements for fusing and arming the weapons are also necessary.

The simulated movement of nuclear explosive into Egypt by Antonov transport aircraft has already been practiced, intelligence reports claim.

PERMISSION

It is possible that this new Russian move was a contributory factor in last week's sack-ing of some of Egypt's pro-Russian military leaders. Intelligence sources suspect that the Russians did not secure President Sadat's permission for the storage of nuclear weapons on Egyptian soil.

Such storage does not contravene the nuclear non-proliferation treaty which Russia has signed, as long as the weapons remain firmly in Soviet hands. Britain has similar nuclear facilities in Cyprus, as has the United States in Europe.

In Cairo the government banned all demonstrations as Mr. Sadat briefed his new 33-member cabinet "on their responsibilities.

The official newspaper Al Ahram said the president will also go before the national assembly today to discuss the "broad lines of the new permanent constitution."

11 MAY 1971

Egypt's Offensive Ability Is Viewed as Limited

By DREW MIDDLETON
Special to The New York Times

CAIRO, May 6—The Soviet Union, according to the best qualified neutral sources, has provided Egypt with strong air defenses, but not with the weapons and training required for a major offensive against Israel across the Suez Canal.

Military attachés at neutral embassies believe that, if Israel wished to pay the price, some of her Phantom fighter-bombers could get through the radar screen at low level. But they think the price of a steady air offensive would be close to prohibitive.

Israel's air defense, never seriously tested, is believed to be good and her offensive capacity sufficient for hit-and-run attacks. Extensive Soviet reinforcement, however, would inhibit resumption of the large-scale air attacks of 1970.

Informed estimates of Soviet strength in Egypt are 200 pilots, 15,000 men in missile crews and 4,000 military advisers. There are more than 85 Soviet-manned SAM-3 missile sites, each with four launchers.

In modern war, one source said, 200 pilots, most of them without combat experience, are just not enough for the offensive. "A lot of them are rotated through for training. The time to worry is when they up the number to 500 or more and keep them here," the source added.

Plane Superior to Phantom

Soviet manned aircraft include 150 MIG-21's, 25 Sukhoi-11's and 12 MIG-23's. The latter, whose North Atlantic Treaty Organization code name is Foxbat, has a speed of three times that of sound and ceiling of 80,000 feet. It is su-

perior to the Phantom, the best Israeli fighter, in these respects.

The Soviet air defense of Egypt is now comprehensive—extending from Alexandria in the north to Aswan, site of the Soviet-built DAM, in the south. In addition to more than 85 missile sites, equipped with SAM-3 missiles, which are the most effective against low-flying attacks, the Soviet Air Force controls six airfields.

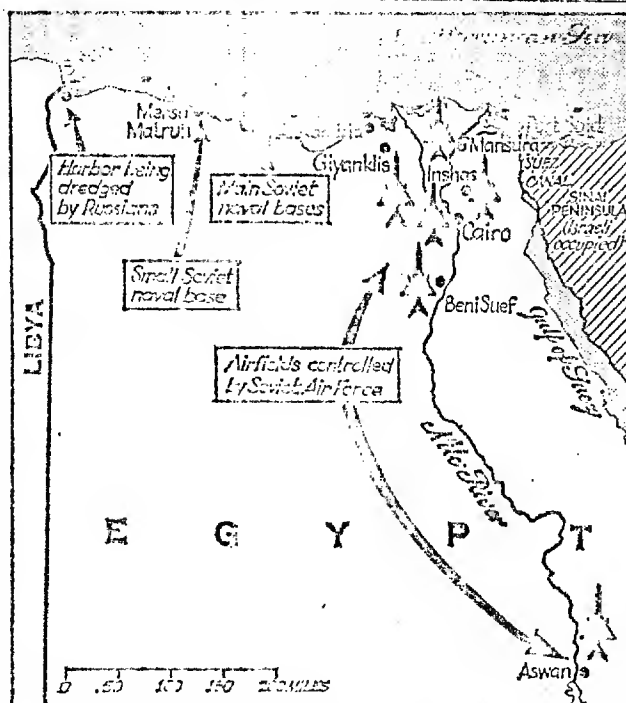
These are at Aswan, Beni Suef, south of Cairo, Cairo West, Inshas, east of Cairo, Mansura, and Giyanklis, south of Alexandria.

The Egyptian Air Force's main bases are along the Red Sea and the Gulf of Suez and

in the strategic area between the Nile River and the Suez Canal.

Although the Russians give the orders and run the electronic equipment, air defense is in theory a joint command. Neutral experts consider that the discrepancy in training between the Soviet and Egyptian Air Forces impedes efficiency. The Egyptian Air Force, according to one observer, still suffers from poor maintenance, a shortage of pilots, and above all, a lack of offensive spirit.

Although, for the last six months, the main Soviet military effort in Egypt has been the establishment of a strong



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air defense, the joint military effort has been strengthened in other respects.

After establishing a small naval base at Mersa Matruh on the Mediterranean 170 miles northwest of Cairo, the Russians are now dredging the harbor at Sidi Barrani still farther west. Sidi Barrani was used as a port by the British Navy in World War II.

The establishment of Soviet bases at these two ports, sources pointed out, would give the Soviet naval squadron in the Mediterranean greater operational flexibility in the event that its main bases, Port Said and Alexandria, were unusable in an emergency.

Army Training Continues

Training of the Egyptian Army, especially the seven divisions in the area between the Nile and the Suez Canal, has continued.

Visitors to Cairo hear many reports of broken-down equipment, haphazard military convoys and the like. However, both the men and equipment observed on a recent visit to the canal, sponsored by the Egyptian Government, appeared in better shape than those observed on a similar trip 15 months ago.

Mid East

5 MAY 1971

Best Soviet Air Missile Is Deployed in Egypt

By THOMAS B. ROSS
Chicago Sun-Times Service

The Soviet Union has deployed its most advanced antiaircraft missile, the SA6, in Egypt, pushing the Middle East closer to another flash point.

U.S. intelligence, it was learned yesterday, recently detected the SA6 near the Aswan Dam and at several Soviet airfields in the interior of Egypt.

If the Russians follow previous practice and move the SA6 up to the Suez Canal, the low-altitude missile could close the gap in Egypt's air defense.

That could embolden the Egyptians to launch a major punitive raid to induce the Israelis to accept Cairo's political terms for a withdrawal from the Sinai Peninsula. Or it could provoke Israel to launch another preemptive strike before its air force is neutralized and its advanced positions along the canal are put in jeopardy.

In addition to the SA6, it is officially estimated that the Russians have sent more than 100 MIG-21 jets to Egypt this year. Three MIG-23s, the best Russian interceptor and a plane that has never been stationed outside the Soviet Union before, also have been spotted in Egypt.

Detection of the new weapons, particularly the SA6, has given added urgency to Secretary of State William P. Rogers' effort to produce an interim settlement by reopening the canal.

The SA6 deployment is sure to make the Israelis even more

wary about any withdrawal from Arab territory captured in the 1967 war. Last summer, Russian SA2 and SA3 missiles were moved into the Suez zone under cover of Rogers' cease-fire plan.

Subsequently, the Israelis are known to have devised a method for eluding the SA2, a high-altitude missile, and the SA3, a medium to low altitude missile.